

Occupational Therapy's Role in Cardiac Rehabilitation of Patients with Cardiovascular Diseases

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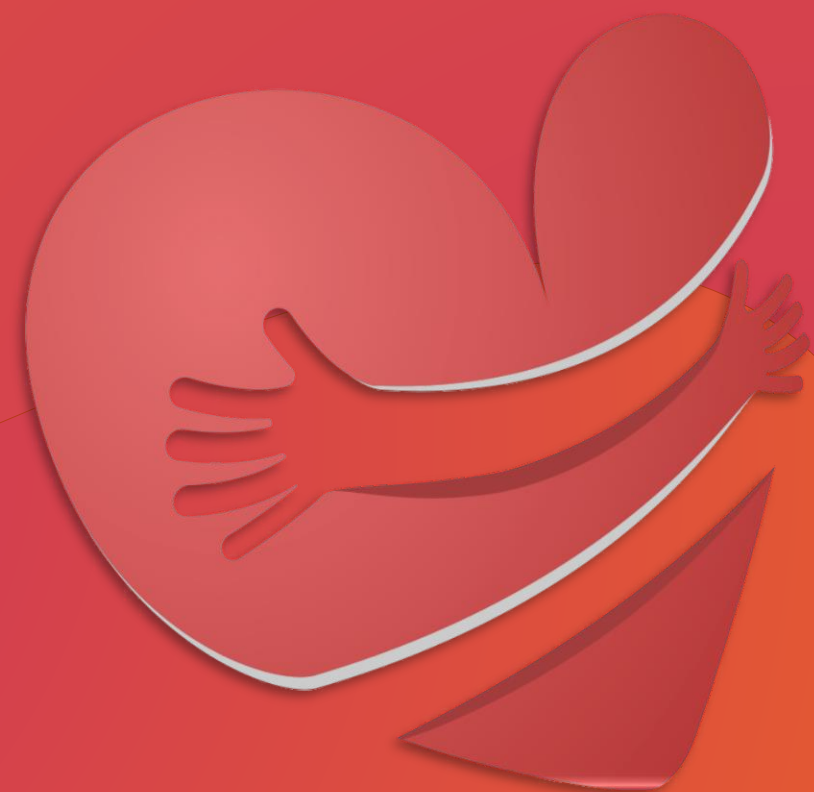
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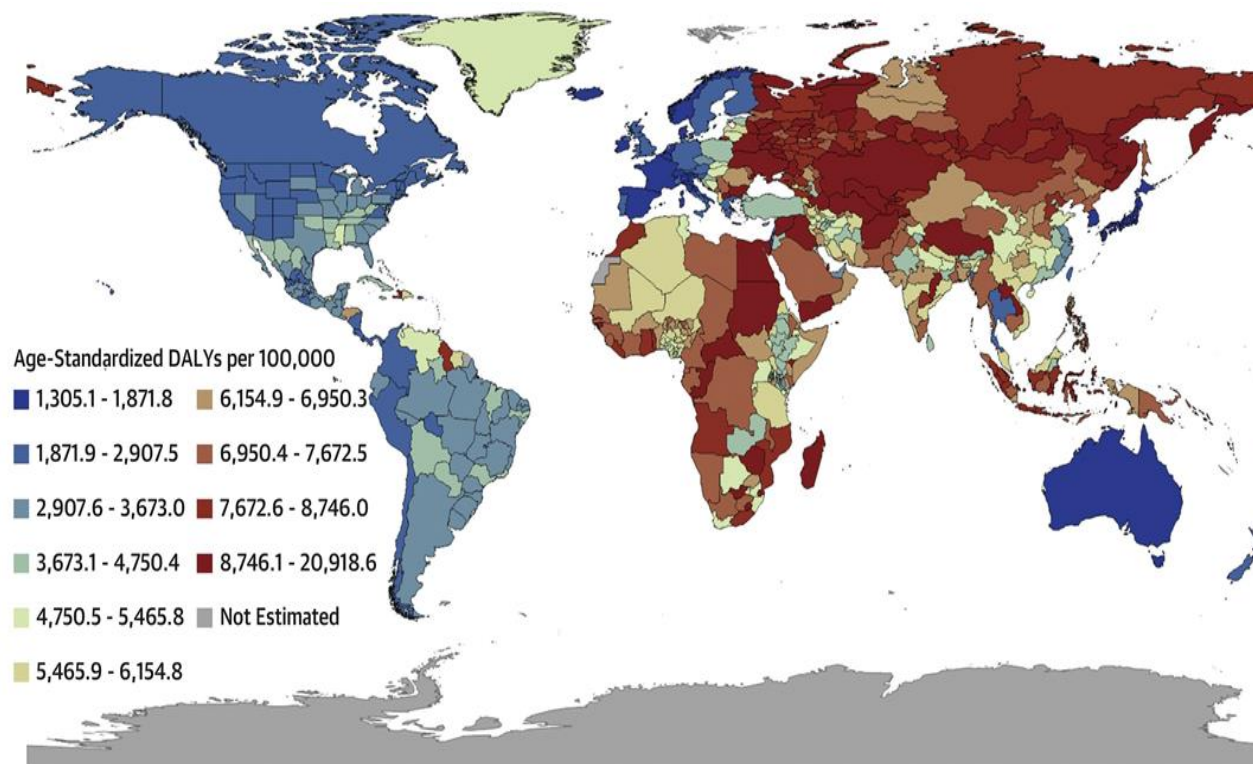
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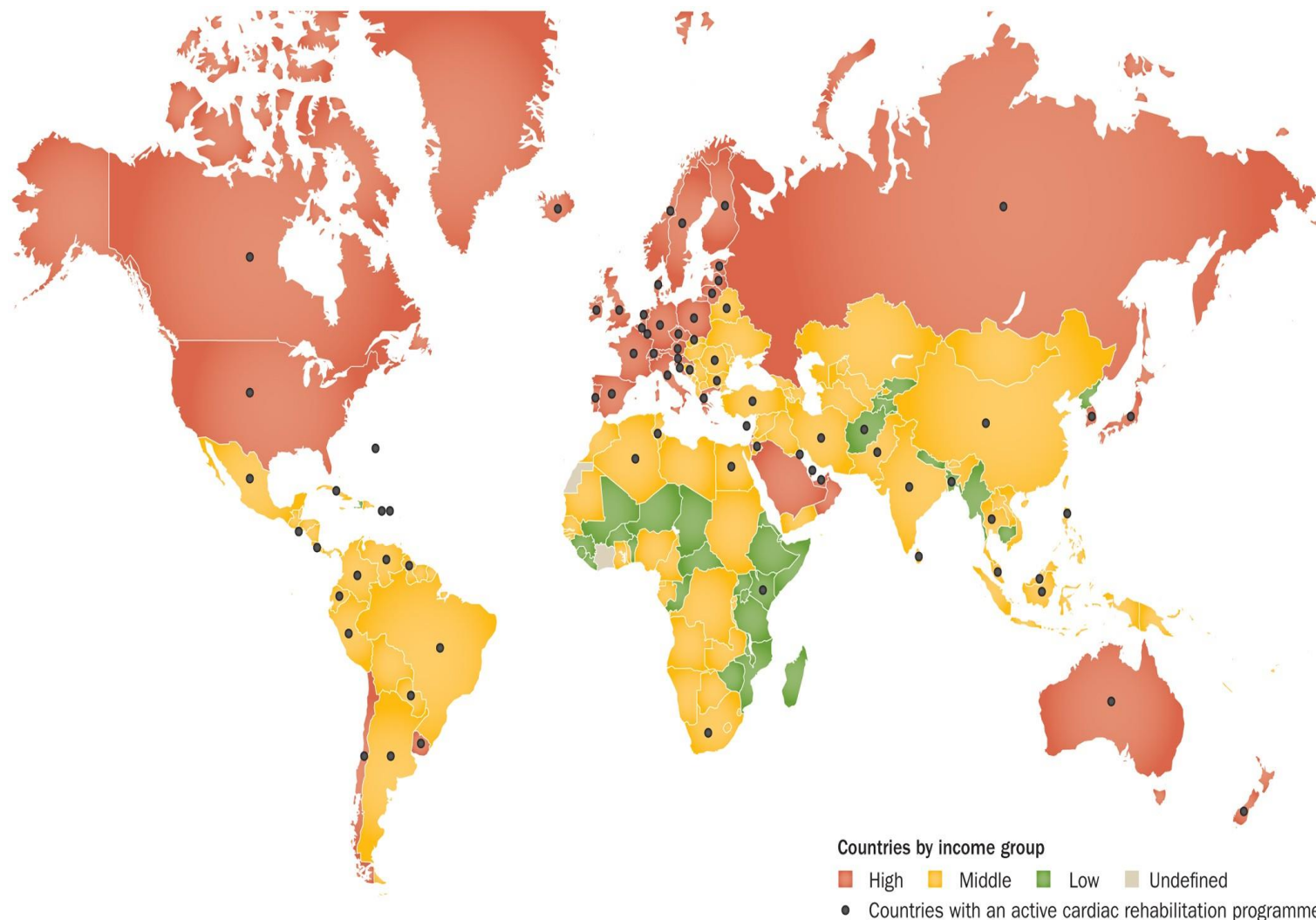
Global Burden of Cardiovascular Diseases

Cardiovascular problems are a global health concern, affecting millions of individuals and their quality of life.

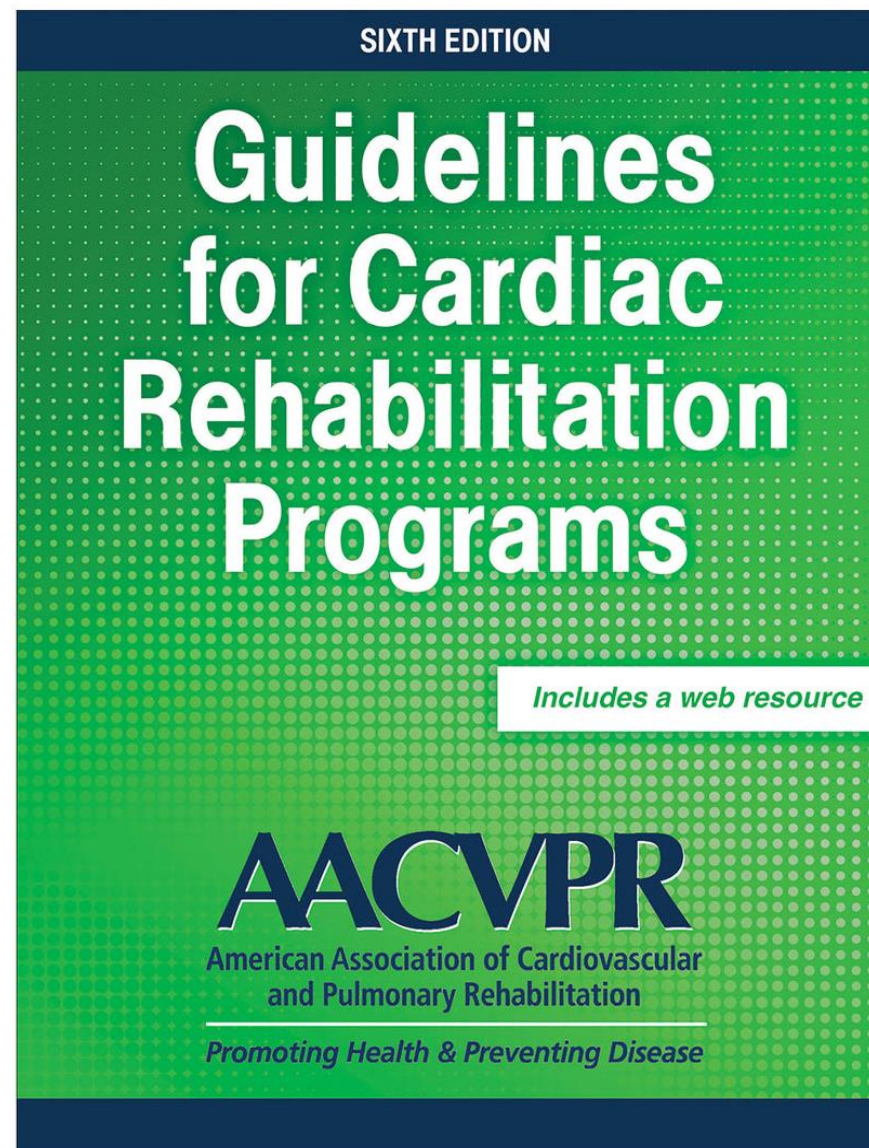


Global availability of Cardiac Rehabilitation






Cardiac rehabilitation services are poorly implemented worldwide, with only 38.8% of countries having CR Centers



Cardiac rehabilitation (CR) is a guideline-recommended, multidisciplinary program of exercise training, risk factor management, and psychosocial counseling for people with cardiovascular disease (CVD)



Value of Cardiac Rehab

Interventions	NNT	Lives saved per 1000 patients
Anti-platelets	153	
ACE inhibitors	108	
Statins	94	
Beta blockers	42	
Cardiac rehab	37	

Sources: Created by Kaiser Permanente using the following sources. For anti-platelets, statins, beta blockers: HT Ong, "Beta Blockers in hypertension and cardiovascular disease", BMJ 2007. For ACE inhibitors: HT Ong, "Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme Inhibitors (ACEIs)...: A Meta-Analysis of 10 Randomised Placebo-Controlled Trials", ISRN Cardiology, 2013.

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Recommendations for Nonpharmacological Interventions

2022 AHA/ACC/HFSA Guideline for the Management of Cardiovascular Diseases: A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines

● Self-Care Support

● Dietary Sodium Restriction



● Exercise Prescription

● Cardiac Rehabilitation

● Activity

Nonpharmacological
Interventions
For
CVD

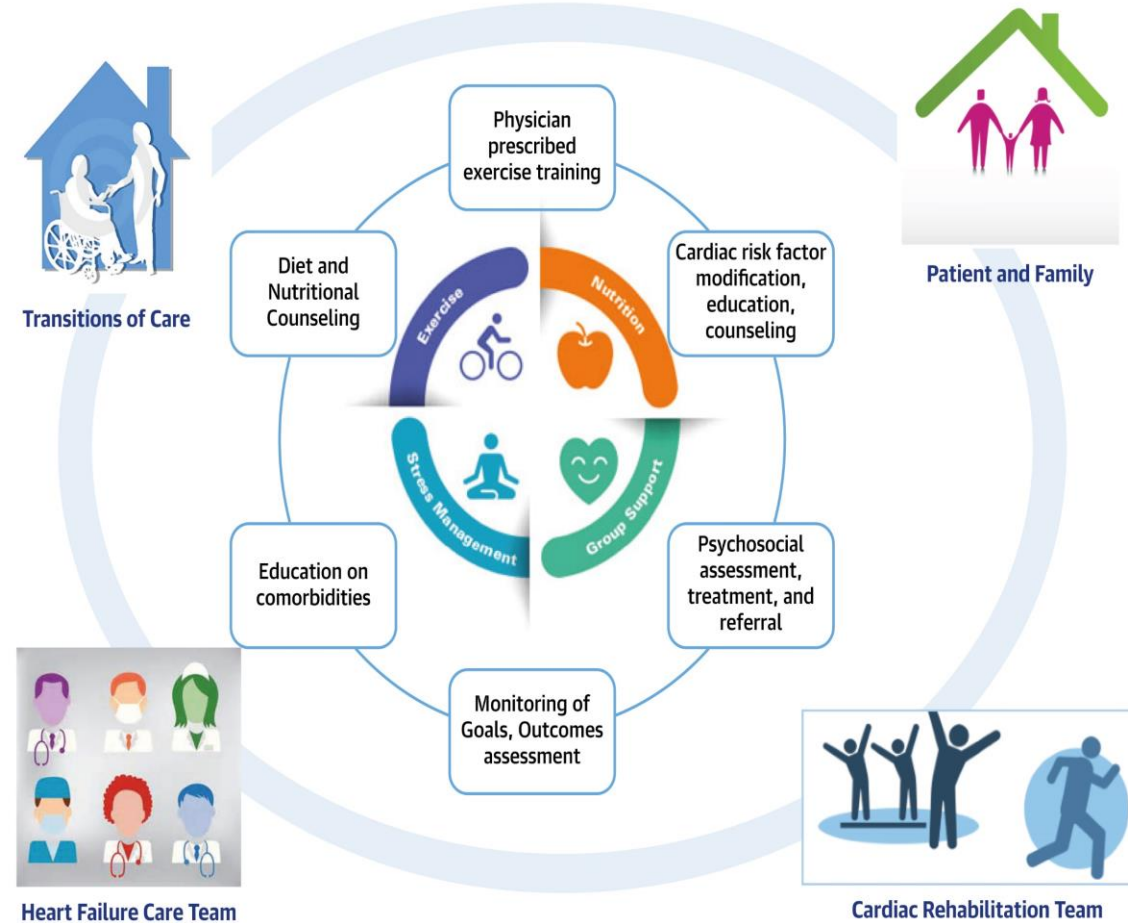
Goals of Cardiac Rehabilitation

- Promote secondary prevention
- Limit the psychological and physiological stresses associated with cardiovascular disease
- Reduce the risk of associated mortality
- Improve cardiovascular function to help patients optimize their quality of life



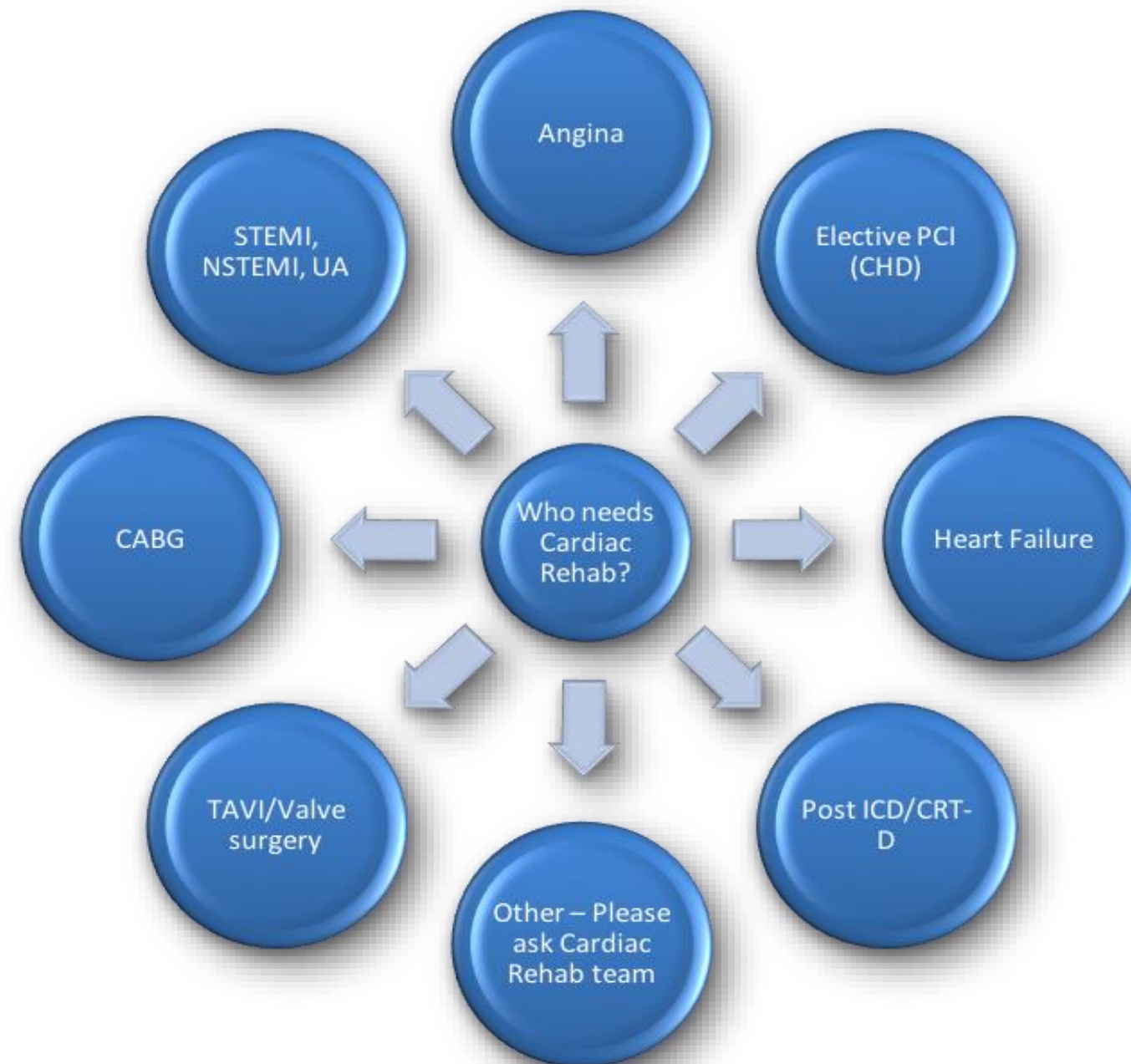


Common Components of Cardiac Rehabilitation and Collaborative Teams



- Cardiologist/Physician
- Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Physiotherapist
- Clinical nutritionist/Dietitian
- **Occupational Therapist**
- Pharmacist
- Psychologist
- Smoking cessation counselor/nurse
- Social worker
- Vocational counselor
- Clerical Administration

Cardiac rehabilitation for patients with heart failure: JACC expert panel. Journal of the American College of Cardiology, 2021. 77(11): p. 1454-1469.



Who needs CR?

Evaluation

FITT

Frequency, **I**ntensity, **T**ime, and **T**ype of CR Regimen



Demographics



NYHA function class
Pain



CPET
Vo2 peak



Anthropometric



Echocardiography
LVEF%
GLS%



Imaging



Heart Rate



SNAQ
MNA



6MWT
4MGS



NT-ProBNP



Handgrip Strength



IHF-QOL

Cardiac Risk Stratification In Cardiac Rehabilitation Programs

Low risk (all listed findings must apply)

MET: Metabolic Equivalent Of Task

$$\rightarrow 1 \text{ MET} \equiv 1 \frac{\text{kcal}}{\text{kg} * h} \equiv 4.184 \frac{\text{kJ}}{\text{kg} * h}$$

EF: ejection fraction

Findings/Results of the graded exercise testing:

- No complex ventricular arrhythmias under increasing exercise and in the recovery phase.
- No angina or other significant symptoms (e.g., unusual shortness of breath, light-headedness, or dizziness) under increasing exercise or recovery or in the recovery phase
- Normal hemodynamics under increasing exercise and in the recovery phase (e.g., adequate heart rate increase and recovery, adequate increase in systolic blood pressure under increasing exercise, and decrease in the recovery phase).
- Exercise capacity ≥ 7 METs (≥ 1.8 watts/kg body weight).

➤ Other findings:

- No significant left ventricular dysfunction ($EF \geq 50\%$).
- uncomplicated course after myocardial infarction, bypass surgery or after elective coronary revascularization
- No complicated ventricular arrhythmias at rest
- No signs of heart failure
- No signs of residual ischemia
- No clinically relevant depression

Cardiac Risk Stratification In Cardiac Rehabilitation Programs

Moderate risk (if diagnosed with one or more of the listed findings)

❑ Findings/Results of the graded exercise testing:

- Onset of angina or other significant symptoms (e.g., unusual shortness of breath, light-headedness, or dizziness at higher exercise intensities (<7 METs (<1.4 watts/kg body weight)) during exercise testing
- Onset of mild or moderate silent ischemia during exercise testing or in the recovery phase (ST-segment depression < 2 mm from baseline)
- Exercise capacity <5 METs (<1.2 watts/kg body weight)

➤ Other findings:

- Moderately impaired left ventricular function (EF 40–49%).



❑ Findings/Results of the graded exercise testing:

- Complex ventricular arrhythmias during exercise testing or in the recovery phase.
- Angina or other significant symptoms (e.g., unusual shortness of breath, light-headedness, or dizziness) at low exercise intensity (≤ 5 METs; 1.2 watts/kg body weight) during exercise testing and during the recovery phase
- Myocardial ischemia during exercise or in the recovery phase (ST-segment depression ≥ 2 mm)
- Pathological hemodynamics during exercise (e.g., chronotropic incompetence, flattening/decrease in systolic blood pressure during exercise) or in the recovery phase (e.g., severe post-exercise hypotension).

➤ Other findings:

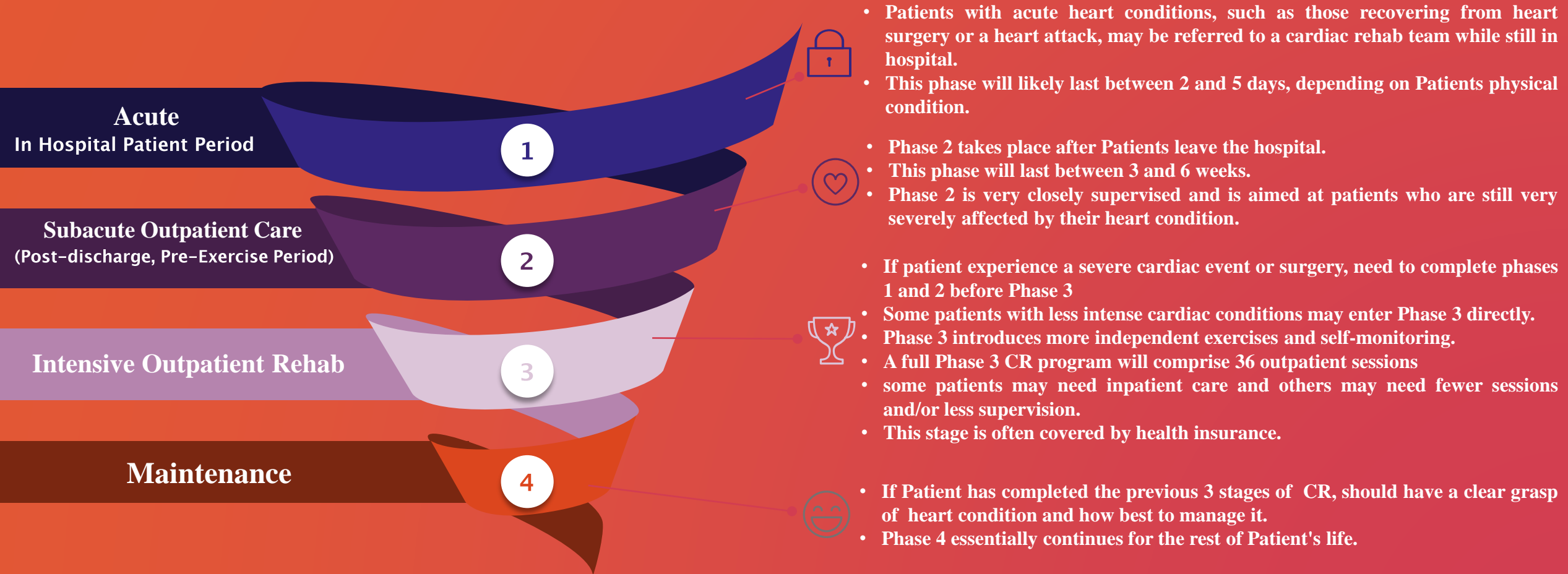
- reduced left ventricular function (EF < 40%)
- condition after cardiac arrest or resuscitation
- complex arrhythmias at rest or during exercise
- myocardial infarction, cardiac surgery, or interventional coronary revascularization with consecutive shock or residual ischemia
- pulmonary hypertension
- condition after (ICD, CRT, VAD) implantation
- condition after heart transplantation (clinically stable)
- clinically relevant depression
- congenital heart disease and valvular heart disease require special individual cardiac assessment and consideration

Cardiac Risk Stratification In Cardiac Rehabilitation Programs

High risk (if diagnosed with one or more of the listed findings)



Cardiac Rehabilitation program progress through the four main phases:



What's the Role of Occupational Therapy in Cardiac Rehabilitation?



Role of OT in CR (Phase 1)

1

1. Assessment

Monitoring of vitals with activity

2. Education

Client and caregiver education

Restoring function

3. Movement

Emphasis on early mobilization

4. Discharge Plan

performing evaluations to assist with the coordination of care
and to determine appropriate discharge recommendations

Role of OT in CR (Phase 2)

1. Reinforce learning from Phase 1

2. Move toward independent self-care

Evaluations ADL, IADL re-training

Energy-conservation strategies

Cognitive impairments

- The main goal is to increase their levels of independence and enable patients to move into Phase 3.

Role of OT in CR (Phase 3)

1. Evaluation

Range of motion

Muscle strength resting

Endurance levels

ADL

2. Exercise

- During Cardiac Rehab, exercise program will be closely supervised by medical professionals to ensure your safety.
- level of exercise will depend on how fit patients were before their cardiac condition, current stamina and ability, symptoms, and a number of other health factors.

3. Education

Maximize quality of life

Manage symptoms

Lifestyle

Role of OT in CR (Phase 4)

1. Follow Up

ADL

Maximize quality of life

Manage symptoms

Lifestyle

2. Education

maximize functional independence within the context of their own homes

In conclusion, Occupational Therapy plays a vital role in the cardiac rehabilitation of patients with cardiovascular diseases.

- By addressing the physical, emotional, and psychosocial aspects of recovery, Occupational Therapists contribute significantly to the overall well-being and quality of life of these patients.
- Through their expertise in activity analysis, therapeutic exercise, and adaptive techniques, Occupational Therapists help patients regain functional independence, improve cardiovascular health, and enhance their ability to perform daily activities. They design tailored rehabilitation programs that focus on increasing endurance, strength, and flexibility while considering the unique needs and limitations of each patient.
- Occupational Therapists also play a crucial role in educating patients about lifestyle modifications, risk factor management, and self-care strategies. By empowering patients with knowledge and skills, Occupational Therapists facilitate long-term behavior change and encourage them to take an active role in their own recovery and cardiovascular health.

- Furthermore, Occupational Therapy interventions extend beyond physical rehabilitation. Occupational Therapists address the emotional and psychosocial aspects of recovery by providing counseling, stress management techniques, and strategies to cope with anxiety and depression. They emphasize the importance of maintaining social connections, engaging in meaningful activities, and developing coping mechanisms to navigate the challenges associated with cardiovascular diseases.
- Collaboration and interdisciplinary teamwork are essential in the cardiac rehabilitation process, and Occupational Therapists work closely with other healthcare professionals, including physicians, nurses, physiotherapists, and dietitians. By contributing their unique perspective and expertise, Occupational Therapists enhance the effectiveness and comprehensiveness of the rehabilitation program, leading to better outcomes for patients.

- In summary, Occupational Therapy's role in cardiac rehabilitation goes beyond the physical realm, encompassing the holistic well-being of patients with cardiovascular diseases. Through their specialized knowledge and interventions, Occupational Therapists empower patients, promote functional independence, and facilitate optimal recovery. By recognizing the significance of Occupational Therapy in cardiac rehabilitation, healthcare systems can ensure comprehensive care and improved quality of life for individuals with Cardio Vascular Diseases.



“A Strong Heart is a foundation for a fulfilling Life”

Thank You